

## **This Week in 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division History**

**13-19 May**

by Ceilia Stratton

### **WWI**

**1918** By this week, some units of the Division had reached French soil. For the first time they were introduced to a mode of travel called the “Hommes 40 Chevaux 8” or French box car which had an estimated capacity of 40 men or 8 horses. As noted by the Division historian, “dirt is their chief characteristic and discomfort their main recommendation.” For the first time they heard German guns.

### **WWII**

**1945** The Division continued occupation duties which consisted of maintaining law and order and guarding installations and infrastructure including supply routes, bridges, art collections. They were also involved in maintaining displaced person camps. The Division command post moved from Amberg to Ansbach.

### **Vietnam**

**1967** During this week the Division was involved in a series of five continuous battles along the Cambodian border that came to be called “**Nine Days in May**”. During this period two Soldiers of the Division received the Medal of Honor. On 16 May, **Sergeant Anund C. Roark**, Company C, 1-12 Infantry was the point squad leader of a small force which had the mission of rescuing 11 men in a hilltop observation post under heavy attack by a company-sized force. For his actions that day, SGT Roark received the Medal of Honor. On 18 May, **Platoon Sergeant Bruce Alan Grandstaff**, Company B, 1-8 Infantry was leading the weapons platoon on a reconnaissance mission when his unit came under heavy small arms attack and automatic weapons fire. For his actions that day, P/SGT Grandstaff received the Medal of Honor. (See full citations in the museum).

**1968** This week was once again characterized by sudden attacks on forward fire bases by NVA rockets and mortars. All attacks were repulsed.

**1969** The entire week was marked by company sized engagements with the NVA . The enemy forces would strike suddenly, inflict as much damage as possible before retreating back into the terrain. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade continued Operation Wayne Javelin in support of Binh Dinh and Pleiku Province pacification programs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade continued Operation Putnam Panther

**1970** 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade relocated just to the east of the Cambodian border to continue to support other Division assets that were continuing operations in NVA Base Area 702 in Cambodia.

**OIF**

**2003** 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade's Operation Planet X on 15 May in Ad Dawr captures #52 on the "Top 55" wanted list.